

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Attn: Pharmacist In Charge:

In mid-July, all Texas registrants were mailed a letter outlining new statutes within the Texas Health and Safety Code (HSC) and reminders of current statutes that should be followed. The new requirements impact physicians in training (PITS) as well.

In order to help clarify procedures for PITs relating to controlled substance prescriptions, the below definitions and information are provided:

Permitted Person – a person permitted with the appropriate licensing board to participate in a bona fide training program at a teaching institution/hospital; i.e. PIT, intern. Permitted persons do not have a valid license with their respective licensing board.

Licensee – a person licensed with the appropriate licensing board and participating in a bona fide training program at a teaching institution/hospital.

Prescription – means an order by a practitioner to a pharmacist for a controlled substance for a particular patient; HSC Sec. 481.002(41).

Effective September 1, 2008, the HSC Sec. 481.074(k) requires a DPS registration number to be included on all controlled substances prescriptions. To comply with the legislative requirements, permitted persons will be allowed to prescribe controlled substances utilizing the institution's DPS and DEA registration numbers followed by the permitted person's unique suffix. If the permitted person changes institutions/hospital for any reason during their participation in the training program, then they should use the registration numbers and unique suffixes for the institution/hospital training program they are participating in when prescriptions are issued. According to the Texas Health and Safety Code, licensees are not authorized to utilize an institution's registration numbers for controlled substance prescriptions. Since licensees have a valid license with their respective licensing board, they are required to obtain their own DPS and DEA registration numbers.

A valid Schedule III-V controlled substance prescription on a teaching institution/hospital form, issued by a permitted person, must contain the institution's DPS and DEA registration numbers followed by the permitted person's unique suffix. The procedures for issuing a valid Schedule II controlled substance prescription have not changed and must be written on an Official Prescription form. Only the institution's DPS and DEA registration numbers are required to be captured in the pharmacy's computer system for electronic transmittal of the prescription data to this Office. However, the suffix must be available upon demand by the proper law enforcement or regulatory authority.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 512/424-2459.

Patrick Knue, Program Administrator
Texas Prescription Program